

Message Text

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63

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 ADP-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 RSR-01 /185 W

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R 291145 Z JUN 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0109

INFO USMINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS GENEVA 3219

E. O.11652 NA

TAGS ILO AORG PFOR IS

SUBJ ILO- RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL IN 58 TH ILO CONFERENCE

1. SUBJECT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO CONFERENCE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 26 AFTER ARAB PROPONENTS SUCCESSFULLY MOVED CLOTURE OF DEBATE ON REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS REGARDING FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION.

2. DURING ENSUING DEBATE ON REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE PROPONENTS OF RESOLUTION AGAIN DEMANDED AND SUCCEEDED IN IMPOSING CLOTURE IN ORDER TO TAKE VOTES ON RESOLUTION. VOTE UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS THEN TAKEN ON ARAB SPONSORED AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION. AMENDMENT FAILED FOR LACK OF QUORUM, WHICH EVENT IMMEDIATELY SPARKED DEBATE OVER THE MECHANICS OF DETERMINING THE QUORUM.

3. UNDER ILO CONFERENCE RULES A QUORUM IS REACHED WHEN THE COMBINATION OF YES AND NO VOTES EQUALS ONE HALF OF THE NUMBER OF VOTING DELEGATES ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE. ABSTENTIONS DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING A QUORUM. ATTEMPTS TO DEFEAT PROPOSALS BEFORE A CONFERENCE THROUGH ABSTENTION VOTES IN ORDER TO PREVENT A QUORUM BEING REACHED IS A LONG STANDING AND LEGITIMATE PARLIAMENTARY TACTIC AT ILO CONFERENCES. IT HAS BEEN USED AS FAVORITE TACTIC IN PAST IN PROPONENTS OF RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL.

4. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF QUORUM FORMULATION, ARABS PROPOSED RECORD VOTE FOR PREAMBULAR AND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF RESOLUTION, AND DEMANDED A RECORD VOTE ON THE DEFEATED AMENDMENT.

5. CONFERENCE PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED REQUISITE SUPPORT FOR RECORD VOTES ON RESOLUTION, BUT REFUSED TO GRANT RECORD REVOTE ON AMENDMENT SINCE REQUEST HAD NOT FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHOW OF HANDS VOTE AS REQUIRED BY STANDING ORDERS OF CONFERENCE. BITTER DEBATE THEN ENSUED WHICH INCLUDED SHARP ATTACKS AGAINST CONFERENCE PRESIDENT FOR HIS RULING AND AGAINST DIRECTOR GENERAL WHO HAD STATED IN EARLIER ADDRESS TO CONFERENCE THAT ILO CONFERENCE SHOULD GUARD AGAINST FOLLY OF FIRST CONDEMNING A MEMBER STATE AND THEN INITIATING AN INQUIRY INTO THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST IT. THAT WAS PRECISELY THE ORDER PRESENTED IN THE RESOLUTION.

6. DURING THE ENSUING CONFUSION THE PROPONENTS OF THE RESOLUTION ATTEMPTED TO OBSTRUCT THE BUSINESS OF THE CONFERENCE BY PREVENTING THE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION FROM PROCEEDING. FINALLY THE PRESIDENT PREVAILED OVER THE DIN AND THE VOTE ON THE PREAMBLE WAS COMPLETED. AGAIN THE VOTE FAILED OF A QUORUM. AT THIS POINT THE ARAB GROUP THROUGH A SYRIAN SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT (1) THE ARAB GROUP WOULD BOYCOTT THE REMAINDER OF THE CONFERENCE, (2) THE ARAB GROUP HAD LOST ITS CONFIDENCE IN THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. THE SESSION WAS THEN ADJOURNED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

7. AT THE MORNING SESSION ON JUNE 27 THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT
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THE ARAB GROUP WOULD APPEAR AT THE AFTERNOON SESSION AND MAKE A STATEMENT. THE SESSION WAS THEN ADJOURNED.

8. AFTERNOON OF JUNE 27, SYRIAN SPOKESMAN FOR ARAB GROUP ANNOUNCED THAT GROUP WOULD CONTINUE TO BOYCOTT SESSION WITH EXCEPTION OF CLOSING SPEECH OF CONFERENCE PRESIDENT. BY THUS

REMAINING IN ATTENDANCE AT, BUT BOYCOTTING ALL BUT CLOSING SPEECH
OF, THE CONFERENCE THE QUORUM WAS NOT REDUCED AND THE ARABS
THEMSELVES ASSURED A LACK OF QUORUM FOR THE REST OF THE BUSINESS
OF THE CONFERENCE. SPOKESMAN READ LIST OF DEMANDS OF ARAB
GROUP AND DEPARTED HALL.

9. NO FINAL ACTION TAKEN ON RESOLUTION AGAINST ISRAEL AND IT
SIMPLY DIED. A SECOND RESOLUTION DEALING WITH THE TECHNICAL
SUBJECT OF TEMPORARY EMPLOYEMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY WORKERS
OF CONFERENCE FAILED OF PASSAGE BECAUSE BOYCOTT BY ARABS
MADE ACHIEVEMENT OF QUORUM IMPOSSIBLE. BASSIN

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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